Deposition - DARRYL C. TOMLINSON, March 20, 1964, 6 H 128-34.

Questioning by Mr. Arlen Specter, Asst. Counsel, Warren Commission

Tomlinson is a senior engineer at the Parkland Hospital.

He had been sent to convert the elevator to the operating room from automatic and to operate it. He removed a stretcher, by inference Connally's stretcher, and put it against a wall near another stretcher. This was on the ground floor. This stretcher is never positively identified as that on which Governor Connally was moved. Tomlinson appears uncertain and reluctant, but he said that after he had occasion to move the stretcher that had been there - not Connally's - he "bumped" it against the wall and "a spent bullet or cartridge rolled out that had apparently been under the edge of the mat." There is no questioning or discussion about it, but "mat" apparently means mattress. Tomlinson and others described a bumper around the stretcher. How the bullet could have gotten out of Governor Connally's body and under the mattress of either the stretcher he was on or another is not addressed in any way. Counsel Specter seems to try to trick Tomlinson into changing his identification of the two stretchers. It may have been an accident, but if so, it was certainly the kind of an accident the Commission needed.

The testimony about the bullet begins on p.130. The apparent attempt to trick Tomlinson is at the bottom of p.131. Tomlinson says there were times when he was away from the stretcher and, in fact, from the area between the time he took Connally's stretcher off the elevator and the time the bullet fell to the floor. When Specter pushes him about the identification of the stretcher, (p.132) Tomlinson makes a point of saying, he isn't changing his story and has no way of knowing what happened to the stretchers, if anything, in his absence. When Specter quotes the Secret Service agent who interviewed Tomlinson as saying the bullet came from Connally's stretcher, (note that neither stretcher is proved to have been Connally's. It is just assumed. See also Jimison, pp.126-7.) Tomlinson still won't change his story. So Specter concentrates on trying to

confuse him and gets him to repeat that he just isn't sure. On p.134 Tomlinson says he doesn't really know where the stretcher he took off the elevator came from. (Other testimony showed that it was the practice at the operating room to put the emergency stretchers on the elevator and they were removed from the elevator on the ground floor whene the emergency room is located.)

This is anything but the story of the "found" bullet in the report. The report misrepresents this testimony in a way that cannot be regarded as accidental. The report even says the bullet was found on the stretcher; it was found on the floor. It appears to have been underneath the mattress on a stretcher.

Even the attempt to get all the witnesses to say what was on the stretcher fails. They do not agree.